Water Commission. The Central Government is willing to render any technical assistance required in the matter.

Modernisation of Air Safety Network

696. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to modernise and update Air Safety Network in the country;

(b) the present status of the projects undertaken in this regard;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of some projects and action taken against those responsible for faulty execution delay-resulting in consequent cost escalation; and

(d) the details of plan of action for ongoing and new projects particularly in Maharashtra and funds provided therefor during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) In addition to the modernisation of Air Traffic Service System at Delhi and Mumbai, navigation and surveillance systems are being upgraded by installation of Secondary surveillance Radars at Madras, Calcutta, Trivandrum, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Nagpur, Varanasi and Bhubaneshwar. Out of the above, the radars at Guwahati, Trivandrum and Hyderabad have been installed and those at Chennai, Calcutta and Ahmedabad are under installation.

(b) So far as the modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports are concerned, the system site acceptance test at Delhi airport has been completed and operational trials are going on. The system at Mumbai is likely to be ready for operational trials by October, 1997.

(c) The reasons for the delay in the completion of the project are as under:

(i) Abnormal rainfall during 1993 and 1994 which affected the civil construction work;

(ii) Change in the scope of the work;

(iii) Delay in replacement of components which became unserviceable during installation;

(iv) Modifications had to be carried out by the contractor to meet the specifications;

(v) Procedural delays in obtaining Customs Duty and Import Licence clearances.

(d) As mentioned above, the modernised Air Traffic Service System at Mumbai would become operational by October, 1997 and the total cost of the project for Mumbai airport is Rs. 212 crores.

Erosion in Padma River

697. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Padma River flowing into Bangladesh and which partly spills over into the Murshidabad district of West Bengal is causing alarm in the State;

(b) whether the riverbed erosion currently seen in the river can move on the lead to similar calamitous trands in the Ganga, particularly when there is hardly a district of 2 km. between the Padma and the Ganga; and

(c) if so, the technical assistance or any other assistance proposed to be rendered to the West Bengal Government by the Union Government to check the unabated erosion in the Padma river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir. During high flood, river Padma/Ganga flowing into Bangladesh partly spills over in the Murshidabad district and causes damage.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission recently constituted an Expert Committee to study erosion problems of the river Ganga/Padma in West Bengal for taking up suitable measures. The Committee has submitted its report along with recommendations. The Committee has also dealt with this problem of erosion on the river Ganga/Padma near Fazilpur, where the distance between the rivers Padma and Bhagirathi is the least and has suggested suitable measures for checking the erosion in the Padma river.

[Translation]

Birth Centenary of Morarji Desai

698. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some schemes were declared by the Union Government on the birth centenary of Shri Morarji Desai;

(b) if so, whether any declaration was made to open a Naturopathy and Yoga College in Delhi and if so, the action taken so far in this regard; and

(c) whether no funds have been sanctioned for this purpose under the Ninth Five Year Plan and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the behest of the National Committee for celebration of Birth Centenary of Morarji Desai, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy) has decided to rename the National Institute of Yoga (NIY) as Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY). This decision has also been confirmed by the General Body of the NIY in its meeting held on 15.4.1997, in terms of Section 12 of the Societies Registration Act 1860. The proposed MDNIY will run a Degree College of Yoga and Naturopathy. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare are already working on a project Report on the proposed MDNIY so as to operationalise it during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) A sum of Rs. 50.00 lakh has been provided for the proposed Institute under Plan during the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[English]

Malfunctioning of Mid-Day Meal Scheme

699. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3454 on March 14, 1997 regarding malfunctioning of Mid-day Meal Scheme and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) According to the information since received from the Government of Orissa, the Public Accounts Committee of the Orissa Legislative Assembly (1996-97) in its 35th Report had discussed and raised certain points on the implementation of the Mid-day Meal Programme in the State. The matter is reported to be still under the detailed scrutiny and examination of the Orissa Government.

Regarding tenders invited by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for the supply of "Monaco Type" salted biscuits, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has informed that the Corporation purchased the salted biscuits (Monaco type) as per the approved specifications.

Irrigation Capacity

700. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigation capacity created in Orissa during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce some new irrigation projects in the State to increase the irrigation capacity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the irrigation capacity is likely to be increased during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The details of irrigation capacity likely to have been created in Orissa during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:

Irrigation Potential in thousand hectares

Year	Major & Medium	Minor Irrigation	Total
1995-96 (Provisional)	44.14	83.16	127.30
1996-97 (Targets)	181.31	55.00	236.31
Total	225.45	138.16	363.61

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Six major irrigation projects as well as four medium projects and four Extension, Renovation & Modernisation (ERM) projects have been proposed to be taken up during the IX Five year Plan (1997-2002). On completion of these projects additional irrigation potential of about 287.11 thousand hectares is likely to be created.

Canteen Services to Headquarter Employees

701. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ministries like Communications, Railways etc. give preference in the allotment of STD/ISD/PCO etc. booths and free railway passes to their employees after retirement;